Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-10

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8885

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, ETRD, AGPK, PFOR, AG, PK

SUBJ: DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES: POLITICAL ASPECTS

REF: A) ALGIERS 430; B) DAKAR 867

1. ALGERIAN DELEGATION AT DAKAR CONFERENCE DID INDEED RAISE NUMEROUS HACKLES BY THEIR STEAMROLLER TACTICS, ACCORDING TO MFA DIRECTOR (UNITED NATIONS) MUNIR AKRAM, WHO WAS ON PAK DELEGATION. AKRAM TOLD EMBOFFS THAT PAK DELEGATION, LIKE MANY OTHERS SPECIFICALLY HE MENTIONED GHANIAN, JAMAICAN, BRAZILIAN, MALAYSIAN AND PHILIPPINE DELS), WAS CONSIDERABLY ANNOYED BY THE "HIGH-HANDED" TACTICS OF THE ALGERIANS IN "RAMMING THROUGH" VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS. THE PAKS, HE SAID, HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED SUCH TACTICS AND WERE A BIT SHOCKED AND BEWILDERED BY THEM. ALGERIA, HE STRESSED, WAS THE REAL FORCE AT THE CONFERENCE, HANDLING MOST OF THE ARRANGMENTS, WHILE THE HOST SENEGALESE LARGELY SAT BACK AND WATCHED. NONETHELESS, PAKS CONSIDER THAT ALGERIANS LOST MORE THAN THEY GAINED BY THEIR HIGH-HANDED BEHAVIOUR.

2. PAKISTAN DELEGATION WAS NOT PREPARED FOR WHAT AKRAM CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED AS ABOUT 75 ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS

CLOAKED IN ECONOMIC LANGUAGE WHICH WERE INTRODUCED AT DAKAR. PAKS, ALONG WITH OTHER MODERATES SUCH AS PHILIPPINES AND BRAZIL TRIED TO TONE DOWN LANGUAGE OF SOME, HE SAID, BUT WERE BASICALLY OVERWHELMED BY THE SHEER WEIGHT OF PAPER AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY OF MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS TO DO MORE THAN GO ALONG WITH THE ALGERIANS WHO WERE "RAMMING THEM THROUGH."

3. DIRECTOR ASSURES US, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WAS TROUBLED BY THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THESE RESOLUTIONS, WHICH THEY FELT HAD NO PLACE IN ACONFERENCE ON RAW MATERIALS. ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR PAKS, HE OBSERVED, WERE THOSE RESOLUTIONS ON VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND PUERTO RICO. THEREFORE, HE SAID, WHILE THERE WAS NO CONFERENCE MECHANISM FOR VOTING OR ABSTAINING ON INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS, THE PAK DELEGATION RESERVED ITS POSITION ON SEVERAL. THESE RESERVATIONS WERE PRESENTED IN A STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE BEFORE ADJOURNMENT BY DELEGATION LEADER, CHAUDHRY JEHANGIR ALI, FEDERAL MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS.

4. PORTION OF JEHANGIR'S STATEMENT TO WHICH AKRAM INVITED OUR ATTENTION AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THIS CONFERENCE AND BY AND LARGE WE ENDORSE THE DECISIONS TAKEN. THIS DOES NOT IMPLY, OF COURSE, THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM FULLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT OUR VIEWS AND PREOCCUPATIONS. OUR POSITION ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS - SOME OF WHICH HAVE POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS - MAY BE DIFFERENT; OUR PRESCRIPTIONS TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES MAY HAVE BEEN MORE CAUTIOUS. THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE ITS RESERVATIONS ON SOME OF THESE MATTERS; ON OTHERS, TIME, AND DEFERENCE TO THE SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS, HAVE PREVENTED US FROM DOING SO. LET ME MERELY SAY THAT OUR POSITION ON THESE QUESTIONS REMAINS UNIMPAIRED. I HOPE MY REMARKS IN THIS REGARD WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS."

- 5. OTHER ASPECTS OF DAKAR CONFERENCE AND OTHER PROPOSED CONFERENCES IN WHICH PAKS INTERESTED BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
- 6. TEXTS OF TWO STATEMENTS MADE IN DAKAR BY PAK DEL LEADER CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: COMMODITIES, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISI AMA01518

Document Number: 1975ISLAMA01518 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D750060-0261

From: ISLAMABAD Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750228/aaaaazcz.tel Line Count: 109 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EB Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 430, 75 DAKAR 867
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 29 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES: POLITICAL ASPECTS

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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006